

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:

a casing including an optical filter;

a plurality of light sources, in the casing, each configured to emit an invisible light to be reflected by an object; and

a two dimensional image sensor, in the casing, surrounded by the light sources and configured to receive the reflected invisible lights from the object through the optical filter,

wherein the optical filter selectively transmits the invisible lights and blocks a visible light, further comprising:

a control mechanism configured to control the image sensor to generate a first image when the light sources are emitting the invisible lights and a second image when the light sources are not emitting the invisible lights,

wherein an image of the external object is generated from a difference between the first image and the second image.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the light sources are infrared LEDs.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the two dimensional image sensor is a CCD image sensor.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A portable imaging apparatus configured to be placed on a desk, comprising:

a casing including an optical filter at a top surface of the casing;  
at least two light sources, in the casing, each configured to upwardly emit an invisible light, through the optical filter, to be reflected by an external object; and  
an image sensor, disposed in the casing, surrounded by the light sources, and configured to downwardly receive the reflected invisible lights from the external object through the optical filter,

wherein the optical filter is configured to selectively transmit light having a predetermined wavelength corresponding to the light sources in the casing, further comprising:

a control mechanism configured to control the image sensor to generate a first image when the light sources are emitting the invisible lights and a second image when the light sources are not emitting the invisible lights,

wherein an image of the external object is generated from a difference between the first image and the second image.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The image apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the light sources are infrared LEDs.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the image sensor is a CCD image sensor.

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the light sources are arranged symmetrically around the ~~imaging~~ image sensor.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 16, wherein a number of the lights sources is more than or equal to 3.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a number of the lights sources is more than or equal to 3.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the light sources are arranged symmetrically about a center of the two dimensional image sensor.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the light sources are arranged symmetrically about a center of the image sensor.

Claim 31 (New): The imaging apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the light sources are arranged symmetrically around the image sensor.